

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method comprising the steps of:
 - 5 deactivating a circuit during a first time period;
 enabling a portion of the circuit for a second time period;
 sensing an electromagnetic signal during the second time
period;
 - enabling the circuit for an extended time period that is
10 greater than the second time period upon the sensing of the
electromagnetic signal;
 - processing the electromagnetic signal during the extended
time period to obtain an input code;
 - comparing the input code to an access code; and,
 - 15 providing a signal to unlock a device if the input code
matches the access code.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
generating an oscillation signal and deactivating the circuit in
response to the oscillation signal.
- 20 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
toggling a switch to enable the circuit for the extended time
period.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
operating at least one of the following in response to the
25 signal to unlock the device: an electromechanical driver; a
solenoid; a DC motor; an electromechanical relay; and, a solid-
state relay.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic signal is
infrared.
- 30 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic signal is
within a radio frequency.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of activating another portion of the circuit to compare the input code to an access code.

8. A method comprising the steps of:

5 periodically enabling and disabling a circuit during each of a plurality of duty cycles wherein the circuit is enabled for a time t_1 during each of the duty cycles;

 receiving an input code transmitted via an electromagnetic signal;

10 comparing the input code to an access code;

 enabling the circuit as the input code is being received for a time t_2 that is greater than said time t_1 ; and,

 providing a signal to unlock a device if the input code matches the access code.

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9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of sensing receipt of the electromagnetic signal.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the electromagnetic signal is infrared.

20 11. The method of claim 8, wherein the electromagnetic signal is within a radio frequency.

12. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of generating an override signal during at least a portion of the step of enabling the circuit as the input code is being

25 received.

13. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of toggling a switch during at least a portion of the step of enabling the circuit as the input code is being received.

14. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of
30 operating at least one of the following in response to the signal to unlock the device: an electromechanical driver; a solenoid; a DC motor; an electromechanical relay; and, a solid-state relay.

15. A method for operating a circuit on current drained from a battery comprising the steps of:

generating a signal to indicate detection of a device capable of providing an electromagnetic signal;

5 receiving an input code transmitted by the electromagnetic signal;

increasing the current drained from the battery;

comparing the input code to an access code;

10 providing an output to an unlock device if the input code matches the access code; and,

decreasing the current drained from the battery after receiving the input code.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of increasing the current drained from the battery comprising
15 toggling a switch and the step of decreasing the current drained from the battery comprising toggling the switch.

17. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of generating an oscillation signal during the step of receiving the input code.

20 18. The method of claim 15, wherein the electromagnetic signal is infrared.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein the electromagnetic signal within a radio frequency.

20. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of
25 operating at least one of the following in response to the signal to unlock the device: an electromechanical driver; a solenoid; a DC motor; an electromechanical relay; and, a solid-state relay.